



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 313

January Session, 2003

House Bill No. 5685

House of Representatives, April 10, 2003

The Committee on Transportation reported through REP. COCCO of the 127th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the bill ought to pass.

AN ACT INCREASING THE GROSS VEHICLE WEIGHT OF BULK MILK PICKUP TANKERS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Subsection (b) of section 14-267a of the general statutes is
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
3 *October 1, 2003*):

4 (b) The axle weight on any axle and the gross weight of any vehicle
5 or combination of vehicle and trailer or vehicle and semitrailer or any
6 other object, including its load, may not exceed the manufacturer's axle
7 weight rating, the gross vehicle weight rating or the following gross
8 weight limits: (1) A two-axle vehicle equipped with pneumatic tires, a
9 gross weight of thirty-two thousand pounds; (2) a two-axle vehicle
10 equipped with solid or pneumatic tires, the weight on any single axle
11 not to exceed eighteen thousand pounds, a gross weight of thirty-six
12 thousand pounds; (3) a three-axle vehicle equipped with pneumatic
13 tires, the weight on any single axle not to exceed twenty-two thousand

14 four hundred pounds or, in the case of axles spaced less than six feet
15 apart, eighteen thousand pounds, gross vehicle weight of fifty-three
16 thousand eight hundred pounds; (4) a three-axle combination of
17 vehicle and trailer or vehicle and semitrailer, the weight on any single
18 axle not to exceed twenty-two thousand four hundred pounds or, in
19 the case of axles spaced less than six feet apart, eighteen thousand
20 pounds, a gross vehicle weight of fifty-eight thousand four hundred
21 pounds; (5) a four-or-more-axle vehicle or combination of vehicle and
22 trailer or vehicle and semitrailer equipped with pneumatic tires, the
23 weight on any single axle not to exceed twenty-two thousand four
24 hundred pounds or, in the case of axles spaced less than six feet apart,
25 eighteen thousand pounds, a gross vehicle weight of sixty-seven
26 thousand four hundred pounds; (6) a four-or-more-axle vehicle or
27 combination of vehicle and trailer or vehicle and semitrailer where the
28 distance between the first and last axle is not less than twenty-eight
29 feet, the weight on any single axle not to exceed twenty-two thousand
30 four hundred pounds or, in the case of axles spaced less than six feet
31 apart, eighteen thousand pounds, a gross vehicle weight of seventy-
32 three thousand pounds, provided in no event shall the gross vehicle
33 weight exceed seventy-three thousand pounds; (7) the gross vehicle
34 weight of a bulk milk pickup tanker shall not exceed ninety-nine
35 thousand pounds, provided the weight of the bulk milk pickup tanker
36 is permitted under the federal-aid highway amendments of 1974, 88
37 Stat. 2281, 23 USC 101 et seq., as amended from time to time, and (8)
38 notwithstanding the provisions of this subsection and subsection (e) of
39 this section, a vehicle or combination of vehicle and semitrailer
40 equipped with pneumatic tires may be operated on any highway or
41 bridge without a written permit, provided the weight on any single
42 axle does not exceed twenty-two thousand four hundred pounds or, in
43 the case of axles spaced less than six feet apart, eighteen thousand
44 pounds, and provided such vehicle or combination is in compliance
45 with the federal-aid highway amendments of 1974, 88 Stat. 2281, 23
46 USC 101 et seq., as amended from time to time, including the gross
47 vehicle weight limit of eighty thousand pounds and the following
48 weight distribution formula:

$$W = 500 \left(\left(\frac{LN}{N-1} \right) + 12N + 36 \right)$$

Where W = overall gross weight on any group of two or more consecutive axles to the nearest five hundred pounds, L = distance in feet between the extreme of any group of two or more consecutive axles, and N = number of axles in group under consideration, except that two consecutive sets of tandem axles may carry a gross load of sixty-eight thousand pounds, provided the overall distance between the first and last axles of such consecutive sets of tandem axles is thirty-six feet or more.

This act shall take effect as follows:	
Section 1	October 1, 2003

TRA *Joint Favorable*

The following fiscal impact statement and bill analysis are prepared for the benefit of members of the General Assembly, solely for the purpose of information, summarization, and explanation, and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either House thereof for any purpose:

OFA Fiscal Note**State Impact:**

Agency Affected	Fund-Type	FY 04 \$	FY 05 \$
Motor Vehicle Dept..	TF - None	None	None

Note: TF=Transportation Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

This bill would increase the gross vehicle weight, to up to 99,000 pounds instead of the 80,000 pounds maximum gross weight currently permitted under federal law, for bulk milk pick up tankers. This increase, however, must be permitted under the federal-aid highway regulations.

Since federal law authorizes no more than 80,000 pounds gross vehicle weight and recognizes no “grandfather rights” for the state of Connecticut, the provisions in this bill can be effected only if the federal law is amended to permit a higher gross weight for these tankers.

OLR Bill Analysis

HB 5685

AN ACT INCREASING THE GROSS VEHICLE WEIGHT OF BULK MILK PICKUP TANKERS**SUMMARY:**

This bill allows bulk milk pickup tankers to have a gross vehicle weight of up to 99,000 pounds, instead of a maximum of 80,000 pounds, when this higher weight is permitted under the federal maximum truck weight law.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2003

BACKGROUND***State and Federal Maximum Truck Weight Laws***

Connecticut's maximum truck weight law allows (1) a vehicle combination with four or more axles to have a maximum gross weight of 73,000 pounds when the distance between the first and last axles is at least 28 feet or (2) a gross vehicle weight of up to 80,000 pounds through application of the "federal bridge formula." The federal formula determines the maximum allowable gross vehicle weight based on the number of axles it has and the distance between the first and last axles (its wheelbase). Thus, to weigh up to 80,000 pounds under this formula, a four-axle vehicle would have to have at least 57 feet between its first and last axles and a five-axle vehicle would require only 51 feet between them.

Currently, federal law authorizes no more than 80,000 pounds gross weight on any vehicle, but recognizes "grandfather rights" for states that permitted higher gross weights prior to passage of the federal law. Connecticut does not have grandfather rights for gross weight but has them for axle weights. Thus, its maximum single and tandem axle weights are higher than the federal maximums.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Transportation Committee

Joint Favorable Report
Yea 26 Nay 0